

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 8 because of certain noted informalities. Applicant has amended claim 8 to remove the indefiniteness as suggested by the Examiner and as such, is now considered acceptable.

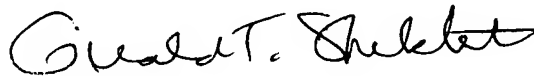
In addition, claim 12 has been rejected as indefinite. Claim 12 has also been amended to remove the indefiniteness and as such, is also considered acceptable.

In addition to the above, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5 and 14 as anticipated by Evans et al. The Examiner has stated that Evans discloses the device form from a plurality of structure elements connected to one another and made from at least one material which has a very low coefficient of thermal expansion α , wherein the structure elements on which the measurement instruments are arranged are secured between at least two structure side parts in such a way that the thermal expansions have no effect in the measurement direction of the measurement instruments. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion in this regard, noting that the crucial point of the subject invention is not that the structural elements are chosen so that they have a very low coefficient of expansion as in Evans, but the structural elements are in fact arranged in such a way that the thermal expansions of the structure have no effect in the measurement directions of the measurement instruments. Thus, the effect disclosed by Evans is achieved through a proper choice of material whereas the effect of the subject invention, as set forth in claims 1 and 14, is achieved through proper construction of the holding device. This is set forth in claim 1 when it states that the structure elements on which the measurement instruments are secured between at least two structure side parts in such a way that the thermal expansions of the structure side parts and of the connections have no effect in the measurement direction of the measurement instruments. Claim 14 has similar language. Thus, Applicant believes that the subject structure is patentably distinct from that of Evans on a structural basis as opposed to a materials basis.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: May 10, 2006
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3912
Telephone: (312) 655-1500
Facsimile (312) 655-1501